assent of the President. The Act seeks to recognise and vest certain rights over forest in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded to ensure (a) tenurial security, providing them relief against the physical and psychological alienation from land belonging to them; (b) livelihood, in terms of agriculture and ownership of minor forest produce, including right to collect use, and dispose the same; and (c) traditional and customary rights.

(c) and (d) As per the Act, the Gram Sabha has been designated as the authority initiate the process of determining the nature and extent of individual or community forest rights or both thay may be given to the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes who have been in occupation of forest land prior to 13 December, 2005 and to other traditional forest dwellers, who have been in occupation of forest land for three generations prior to 13 December, 2005.

Tribal Sub-Plan for development of forest villages

3479. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to cover 13 States under Tribal Sub-Plan to develop forest villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds proposed to be earmarked for this purpose;

(c) whether Government also propose to develop forest villages of other States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) As informed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, there are 2,474 forest villages/habitations in the country, spread over 12 States (earlier this was estimated to be 2,690 forest villages in 13 States). Of the Rs. 450 crore earmarked for expenditure on forest villages during the Tenth Five Year Plan, proposals covering 2,388 forest villages in 11 States

have been approved and Rs. 41277.95 lakh has been released. During 2007-08, a sum of Rs. 150 crore has been earmarked for the development of forest villages. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is yet to receive the proposals from States for the remaining 86 forest villages. Under the programme, infrastructure work relating to basic services and facilities *viz.* approach roads, healthcare, primary education, minor irrigation, rainwater harvesting, drinking water, sanitation, community halls, etc. and activities related to livelihood are taken up for implementation.

(c) Under the programme for the development of forest villages, all existing forest villages in various States are included.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Schemes under the Tribal Sub-Plan

3480. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes which have been included under the Tribal Sub-Plan;

(b) whether the guidelines have been issued to the States to generate awareness among the general public about these schemes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The Planning Commission has issued guidelines for formulation, implementation and monitoring of Tribal Sub-Plan for the Scheduled Tribes. As provided in the guidelines, following should be the component of Tribal Sub-Plan:

(i) Only those schemes should be included under the Tribal Sub-Plan that ensures direct benefits to individuals or families belonging to the Scheduled Tribes.

(ii) Outlay for area-oriented schemes directly benefiting Scheduled Tribes hamlets/villages having a majority Scheduled Tribes population/tribal hamlets and villages shall be included in TSP.

(iii) Priority should be given for providing basic minimum services like primary education, health, drinking water, nutrition, rural housing, rural electrification and rural link road.